M.R.A.C
HAMATEUR CHATTER

Bulletin of the Milwaukee Radio Amateur's Club, Inc.
The World's Oldest Continuously Operating Radio Amateur Club.

Vol. 2 - No. 3 FEB. 1951

CIVIL DEFENSE

Civil Defense, a much bandied about term, is strictly what the name implies. It doesn't demand a scurrying to the learned few for amplification or definition. It means defense and protection of the population by the people in the event of emergency.

We as amateur radio operators and station owners have a very definite part in any civil defense activity and organization of our metropolitan area. We are now preparing with the greatest haste to fit into that niche and function on the first team.

We are installing base stations in the cities and towns and villages to provide inter-governmental unit communications. We have mobile sections which can move in whole or part to various possible stricken areas to furnish instantaneous radio reports to central authority. We own a rich vein of communications equipment that can be tapped for emergency use. And we have Mobile Truck W9HRM, both a versatile headquarters station and a powerhouse on wheels.

All of this can mean much, because it has been said that civilian populations on both sides during the last war were saved from almost complete destruction only by being well organized, block by block and then city by city.

In Milwaukee the Mayor has named Harry Barnes, a ham and a member of the police radio system, as head of the organization charged with setting up the system of defense communications. He has already called on the hams of the county in a circular letter to make available their training and experience first in the form of information to his office. Proper follow through with the post card he enclosed is of vital importance.

The ARRL has appointed Ralph Koenig, W9RUF, as emergency coordinator for the area, and his committee is meeting regularly as they set up plans for the use of the frequencies the FCC recently announced.

1800 - 2000 kc	50.35 - 50.75 mc
3500 - 3510 kc	53.35 - 53.75 mc
3990 - 4000 kc	145.17 - 145.71 mc
28.55 - 28.75 mc	146.79 - 147.33 mc
29.45 - 29.65 mc	220 - 225 mc

(Cont'd. on Page 5)

DON'T SELL TEN METERS SHORT!

This has not been a particularly good ten meter season. The band has been in and out, with the latter holding the edge.

But one station above all others has stood out, even as his antenna stands out above the landscape west of Milwaukee.

This guy calls directional CQ's to New Zealand and South Africa when the rest of the band is deader than an overworked and soft 203A. And then he proceeds to knock 'em off one after another.

How does Frank Maiorana, W9TPT, Appletree Lane, Westchester, Waukesha County do it?

"No secret," says he. "I stress the antenna and a good receiving location, and most important of all, I don't sell ten meters short!"

All right, what has he got? A BC 610. Not bad! Anywhere from 90 to 900 watts. Frank learned how to get the most out of this Hallicrafters rig during wartime service under Chennault in China where he had several dozen of these army workhorses.

What about the receiver? He does hear stuff that nobody else in town can even hetrodyne. A National 240D slightly modified in the first RF stage backs up the BC-610. W9TPT inserted a 717A, a small tube used in most radar installations, in the receiver's first RF stage, giving some sensitivity for a lower noise level. There's a point! And then he's a quarter mile from the nearest highway.

His 66 foot tower, topped by a four element wide spaced rotary beam, of course, is no small item. Put an average half kilowatt into an antenna like that, hear the stations just beyond every normal receiving location's receiving capabilities, and have faith in the band you're operating on. Together they spell an overall record that is so far above everything else on a mediocre band this season, that W9TPT has lapped the field without apparent effort.

Frank has a RM 29A phone patch and a five inch panadapter in addition to his regular equipment. "That's all," W9TPT says. That's all, he says as he nonchalantly grinds out another WAC on a strangely silent "Ten".

MOBILE UNIT FEATURE OF AUTO SHOW

Amidst all the glitter and chrome (and Miss Wisconsin) at the recent Milwaukee Auto Show was the new MRAC Mobile Radio Truck, W9HRM. Jack Doyle, W9GPI, a member of the auto show committee arranged for the display of the unit which was viewed by the almost 100,000 spectators that visited the show. Club President Fred Zolin made the official presentation to Mayor Frank Zeidler during the week, announcing that the unit would be available for use by the city's disaster and civil defense committee whenever necessary. Following are the club members who appeared with the station at the show: W9EKU, W9RH, W9STE, W9SNK, W9FDX, W9DTK, Ken Eggert, W9VQD, W9VD, John Guerard, W9IZQ, Art Brown, Frank Seboth, W9VLK, W9MFB, W9LCD, W9ANA, Jerry Ehley, and Howard Estes.

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HAMATEUR CHATTER

Published periodically by the Milwaukee Radio Amateur's Club, Inc. in the interest of the membership and amateur radio.

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- -

Minocqua, Wisconsin

Sid. Rose, Editor

Dear Mr. Rose:

It has been with a great deal of pleasure that I have been receiving the M.R.A.C. Chatter. I am sorry that I did not write long before to tell you the fine interest it brings to a fellow Ham. I think it brings the best bond to Hamdom, especially to Hams who are lax, like myself. We just never get around to expressing ourselves or to be associated with a fine club like the Milwaukee Radio Amateur's Club until we are snowed under with Bulletins to make us realize the interest the club has for its members.

Many, many thanks, 73.

Van K. Dooley, W9LDQ

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

Bob Harkness, W9GZR, a club member and an engineer for the widely known Briggs and Stratton Corp., will speak at the Feb. 15 meeting, discussing an important subject of the day, "Emergency Power Plants". The following Thursday, Feb. 22, will bring R. M. Krueger, sales engineer of the cable division of the Amphenol Company of Chicago to the club rooms for his interesting discourse, "Transmission lines and the Amateur". This type of speaker, from the industrial plants that manufacture electronic gear, has been well received in the past as witnessed by the fine gatherings that have recently heard Fritz Franke of Hallicrafters and Jack Wilson of Allis-Chalmers. Wilson spoke on the origin of the atom and Franke discussed receiver noise limiters.

W9RH -- OLD FAITHFUL

He's not the oldest oldtimer. 1923 isn't as far through the years as a lot of still active local amateurs can look back to.

He never had the highest power. Kilowatts came and kilowatts have gone, but he's had only a consistent middle-of-the-road wallop.

His station could hardly be called commercial. But his HRO was one of the first to grace receiving positions among Milwaukee amateur radio stations.

This fellow has never been an ARRL director, but through the years there have always been the regular line ARRL appointments up to SCM.

What then is his claim to fame. That's it! He isn't famous.

But Emil R. Felber, W9RH, is consistent.

Now in his seventh term as MRAC treasurer, and in his fifteenth term as a MRAC Director, W9RH has been hamming in Milwaukee for 28 years. And in that 28 years his forte has been service; amateur radio as typified by the MRAC has received the bulk of his service.

W9RH was on the air before the first broadcasting station here. In the days when radio parts could be purchased only at Dewey's Sporting Goods Store and Waukesha was DX, W9RH and his spark coil used to badger for position with the handful of other local spark gap devotees on the band around 240 meters.

Later Emil spent "six-fifty" of his hard earned high school day money for an audio detector tube and heard a Detroit broadcasting station. He was really branching out.

Then, using his flat top and counterpoise he hooked stations in upstate New York, Ohio and all through the east on the old 200 meter band.

In 1926, W9RH experimented with radiophone in the most primitive of fashion. He loop modulated his final tank and with a telephone mike worked a couple of blocks over to W9LJU, Ray Peschek. Ray, a present day MRAC member, also, was then attending Boys' Tech while Emil was about to graduate from West Division. The story is told about W9LJU's "slop jar" rectifiers freezing up regularly in his unheated bedroom "shack" rendering his station inoperative.

W9RH joined the club in 1924, and a decade later was elected president. It was during this period, too, that Emil Felber made a name for himself as a DX man, working such well known amateurs as Archduke Anton Hapsburg of Austria, among others. He twice led the state in the ARRL sweepstakes contest, and that at a time when it used to last for nine grueling days as against the present two week-ends.

Emil gets the lion's share of credit for publishing the fine MRAC roster. In 1948 and again in 1951 he compiled the roster himself.

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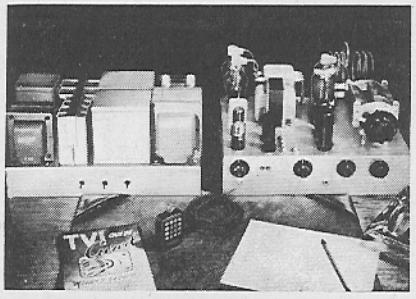

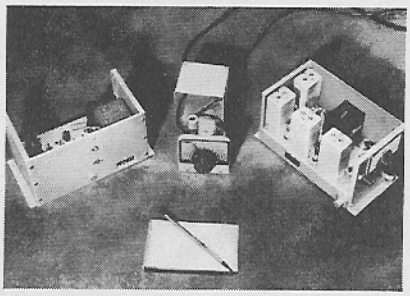

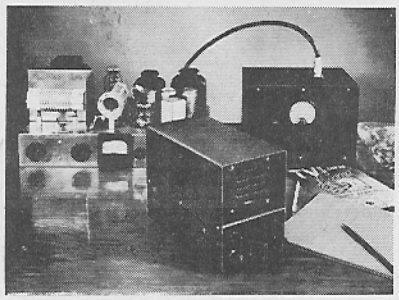

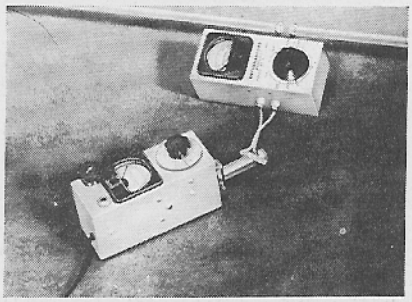

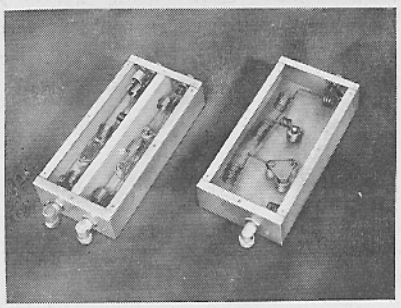

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(Cont'd. from Page 4)

The United States Postal Department claims his daylight endeavor, and Emil Felber can be found almost any week-day trudging the west side streets, delivering the mail, but always ready to "knock off" and hash over the latest news or inovation in his hobby, amateur radio.

(This is another in a series of feature stories about MRAC members who have been active over a period of years on behalf of the club.)

Civil Defense (Cont'd. from Page 1)

1750 - 1800 kc will continue to be available for the Disaster Communications Service, a permanent service for use in disaster occurring at any time.

. . . . . .

This is a consideration that was not afforded in our previous conflict.

The mobiles in our area are under the direction of Charlie Kaetel, W9SNK, a transmitter engineer for Broadcast Station WISN. Under W9SNK the mobiles have made a definite mark in the civil defense picture and are held in high regard by the mayor's organization. During the recent air raid siren exercise, the mobiles and other local stations conducted a simultaneous drill, reporting on the effect of the warning signals. They also contacted the already established suburban base station in Shorewood under the direction of W9GPI, Jack Doyle; in Whitefish Bay, staffed by W9FTY, Gildea Hutchinson; in Fox Point, run by Ellis Saxton, W9UMX, and in Greendale, handled by W9UH, Lynn Lewis. The other suburbs are also preparing their set-ups.

As the communications system is organized and put into operation, amateur cooperation and coordination can be a major factor in helping to prevent disaster and turmoil.

AN INVITATION

Most of the editorial matter of Hamateur Chatter is supplied by only a few club members. The editors will be happy to receive contributions from any of our readers who have a message they consider important or an original article that may be of interest to our 600 "subscribers".

HELP! HELP!

The Club is purchasing some low pass filters to be loaned to the members as a means of eliminating TVI. Doug Pavek, W9FDX, made the suggestion which will allow members to make use of the filters initially to determine if that method will reduce the trouble before actual expense of purchasing is necessary. The line forms at the right, fellas!

1951 ----- 200 SWELL FELLOWS!

By FRED ZOLIN, W9ONY

I believe that friendship contributes more toward one's happiness than anything else in the world.

Good fellowship will then exist -- we notice it at the club meetings -- when we get interested in one another and endeavor to help both ways in each other's problems. That's good fellowship. If you come within this catagory, you must be honest. This last virtue is really a supreme one.

You're probably wondering, what has this got to do with amateur radio? Aside from the science of electronics in our hobby, it still takes the human element to put it across. QSO's create a mighty lot of friendship and good fellowship.

The Milwaukee Radio Amateur's club has been moving along for a long time -- 34 years to be exact -- and it has been meeting each week for each of these years with time out only for the summer recess. That alone demonstrates good fellowship. And an even more obvious fact is the present membership of well over 200 -- well over two hundred swell fellows.....

****

LUCKY PIERRE!

Ellis Saxton, W9UMX, has recently returned from a fortnight in Europe, by way of quick air travel and a deep dig in the old sock. Ellis visited Scandanavia, Paris and London and returned with little news of ham activity on "the other side". He made an attempt to contact several of the brethren but received little satisfaction toward getting a QSP home. He gave up and spent most of his time sightseeing and eating (and what goes with eating?).

NEW DIVISION DIRECTOR HERE

Wes Marriner, W9AND, of Dixon, Ill., the new Central Division ARRL Director, made his first official appearance in Milwaukee at a club meeting early in February. He had little to say that has not been said before and indicated that inasmuch as the former director was a club member, there should have been little that the MRAC gang did not know about goings on at Hartford. You're so right, Wes! Incidentally, with all the publicity the club has been getting both locally and nationally, not the least of the news was the fine article in January QST written by Charley Kaetel, W9SNK, accompanied by a picture of the mobiles lined up in front of the County Court House.

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